

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Final Office Action mailed October 23, 2007. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following comments. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to clarify that the second trigger is disposed downstream of the first trigger along the direction of displacement of the substrate. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for extending the courtesy of a telephone interview with Kevin C. Harrison as his Representative on December 19, 2007. In the interview, the claims were discussed relative to the primary reference. At that time, Examiner Stafira expressed a willingness to enter a clarifying amendment such as that presented herein.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 5-7, 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Sakamori, U.S. Patent No. 5,443,257. In order to anticipate, the cited reference must disclose each and every claimed element. Sakamori fails to do so.

In particular, independent process claim 1 (and hence claims 6-7 depending therefrom) as well as independent apparatus claim 7 (and hence claims 9 and 11 depending therefrom) reference a first trigger that is located at a selected first location along a direction of displacement of the substrate, a second trigger that is located at a selected second location that is disposed downstream of said first trigger along the direction of displacement and at least a first checkpoint detector that is located at a selected third location that is disposed between the first and second triggers along the direction of displacement.

Sakamori does not disclose any of this. Rather, Sakamori discloses sensors 60A, 60B and 60C that are arranged perpendicularly to a sheet feeding direction (a direction of displacement). While Figure 10 of Sakamori shows a skewed substrate having a leading edge that may encounter the sensors 60A, 60B and 60C at different times, this is not the same as the claimed invention in which the sensors are spatially arranged along a direction of displacement of the substrate. It is axiomatic that the direction of displacement of the substrate is independent of the orientation of the substrate.

For at least these reasons, Sakamori cannot be considered as disclosing each and every claimed element. Applicant does not concede that Sakamori discloses any other claimed element

not expressly addressed herein. Sakamori does not anticipate the claimed invention. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

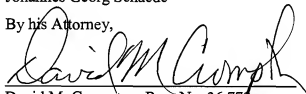
Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of claims 2-4, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Sakamori, U.S. Patent No. 5,443,257. Independent claims 1 and 7, from which claims 2-4, 8 and 10, respectively, depend and further limit, have been distinguished above as being patentable over Sakamori. Dependent claims 2-4, 8 and 10 are patentable over Sakamori for at least the same reasons. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

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By his Attorney,



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